



# John Marshall SWCD Annual Awards Luncheon

DECEMBER 19, 2018



# 2018 Conservation Educator Award

## BRIDGETT MCINTOSH PHD



# Research, Education and Outreach

Fauquier County has the second largest equine population in the state, and an engaged group of horse owners who consider learning a lifelong process. When Dr. Bridgett McIntosh joined VCE as a specialist at the MARE Center in 2014, the conversation about conservation practices on horse farms grew exponentially.

Dr. McIntosh's research and education programs have made measurable impacts on pasture and grazing management to improve horse health and environmental stewardship.



As a part of her work, nearly 6,000 direct contacts have been made through MARE Center tours, seminars, short courses and presentations to local, regional and national equine organizations.





# Research & Mentoring Students

Central to Dr. McIntosh's approach as an equine nutritionist, is not only matching a horse's feeding program to its workload and life stage, but protecting the grass cover that sustains all natural grazing systems. Under her guidance, graduate students at the MARE Center began tackling the critical intersect of forage production, habitat enhancement and water quality protection on horse farms. She and her students have been recognized statewide, regionally and nationally for their work in equine nutrition and pasture management.





# Collaborative Educational Programs

Dr. McIntosh led the effort to develop and launch two statewide educational efforts, the *Master Horse Owner Program in Tennessee*, where she previously served as an *Extension Specialist*, and most recently, “*Healthy Land for Healthy Horses*” in Virginia. In both programs, she presented “model” equine operations which she developed on-site to serve as a resource for horse owners and managers interested in Best Management Practices.

In collaboration with JMSWCD, Dr. McIntosh has been a keynote speaker at programs targeted to horse farms in TMDL (impaired) watersheds, and included our staff as instructors in HLHH and annual Equine Land Management Symposiums. As a result, interest in the installation of treated heavy use areas and the VA Conservation Assistance Program has increased significantly, and will hopefully lead to more conservation on the ground as a part of the Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.



**Sept. 25**  
Virginia Tech MARE Center  
5327 Sullivan Rd Road  
Huntsburg, VA 22017  
Contact: Bridget McIntosh  
540-887-1523

**Oct. 10**  
Virginia Cooperative Extension  
3756 Rembertson Ave  
Roanoke, VA 24018  
Contact: Kate Lawrence  
540-473-8260

**Oct. 11**  
Dorset Area (Aberdeen County)  
4439 Calverton Road  
Free Union, VA 22940  
Contact: Carrie Swanson  
434-872-4300

**Oct. 30**  
Horseshoe Run Club  
2750 S. Butterfield Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA 23522  
Contact: Stephanie Drake  
757-825-2449

All workshops are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
\$25 per person. Lunch provided.

**REGISTER BY MAIL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants: ☐ Total fee enclosed (\$15/service) ☐

**SELECT PREFERRED DATE AND LOCATION**

☐ Sept. 25 - Martinsburg

☐ Oct. 10 - Blacksburg

☐ Oct. 11 - Free Union

☐ Oct. 30 - Chesapeake

Mail this completed form with check to:  
Margaret Arney  
VCE  
2000 Indian Oak Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23522







Bridgett McIntosh's passion for fostering environmental education and research continues in her new role with Mars Inc. where she is part of a team creating a better world for horses, people and the planet.



JOHN MARSHALL SWCD  
recognizes

**BRIDGETT MCINTOSH**

FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO  
EDUCATION IN FAUQUIER COUNTY.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 EDWIN F. GULICK CONSERVATION EDUCATOR AWARD



# John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon





# 2018 Conservation Partner Award Goose Creek Association



Photo: Marcia Woolman (GCA) and students from Highland School after a successful planting at Plum Run Farm



# GCA - Mission

Founded in 1970 to fight the discharge of sewage effluent into Goose Creek

The Association works through an active membership and board to:

- Promote the conservation of natural resources
- Monitor stream water quality
- Monitor proposed developments
- Review legislation that may impact the environment and quality of life in this region
- Sponsor workshops on Environmental and Conservation Issues



# GCA –Recent Accomplishments

- Partnered with other members of the conservation community to achieve Scenic River status for the Fauquier portion of Goose Creek.
- Conduct stream monitoring programs at 21 sites in Fauquier and Loudoun.
- Participated in local water summits and stakeholder meetings including the recent Goose Creek TMDL meetings.
- Promoted conservation easements in the Goose Creek Watershed by supporting the Land Trust of Virginia.
- Launched the Dot Smithwick initiative to help pay expenses for easement applicants in the watershed.
- Provided educational materials at environmental events including Earth Day Loudoun County and Family Stream Day.
- Launched the successful **Goose Creek Challenge** initiative with the goal of planting trees and shrubs along the creek and its tributaries.



# The Goose Creek Challenge

In 2012 GCA initiated the Goose Creek Challenge to help meet the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement by planting trees and shrubs along streams within the Goose Creek Watershed.

Riparian Forest Buffers :

- Stabilize stream banks
- Filter nonpoint source pollution
- Provide Shade to the stream (lowers water temperature and increases dissolved oxygen)
- Improve wildlife habitat (terrestrial and aquatic)





# The Goose Creek Challenge

The Goose Creek Challenge utilizes student volunteers, scouts and families to plant the trees.

Through this effort they deliver hands on conservation education.

Topics include:

- Macroinvertebrates and stream health
- Wetlands
- Soils
- And the benefits of riparian forest buffers





# Partners in Conservation



- This effort utilizes funding from both GCA and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to purchase planting materials
- GCA Organizes the volunteers
- SWCDs and the Virginia Dept. of Forestry plan and provide technical assistance during planting.





# Community Outreach

Helping parents and their kids work together to better their community!







Kids are ready for the  
Challenge!





# Making a Difference in the Watershed



As a result of the Goose Creek Challenge, GCA and its partners have:

- Planted over 7,000 trees, and shrubs on local farms in Fauquier County
- Helped to protect over 20,000 linear feet of stream bank (15.9 acres)
- Made a lasting impression on over 240 school kids that participated in these events!



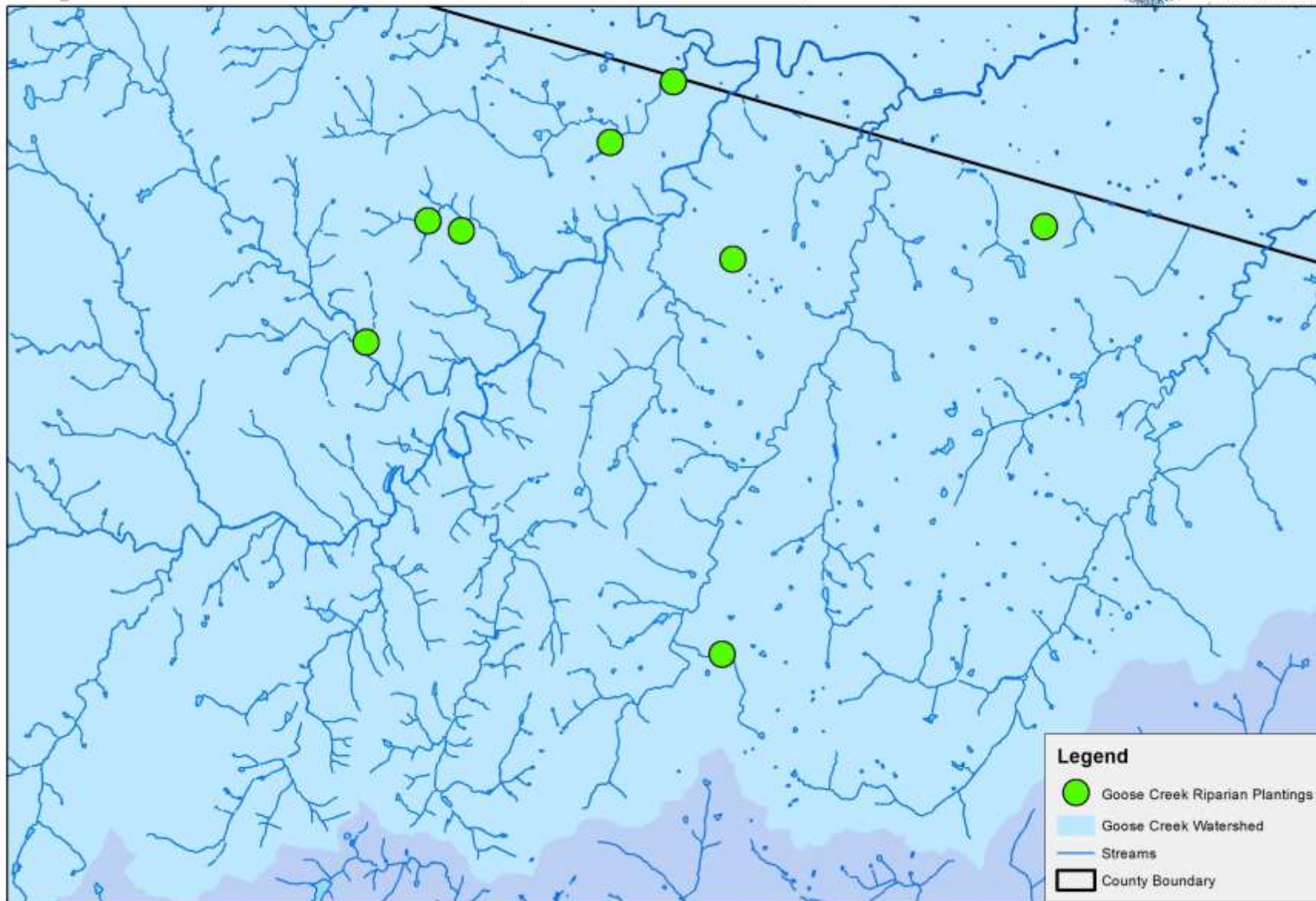


## Goose Creek Watershed Riparian Plantings



1 inch = 7,000 feet

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles



### GCA –Planting Sites

- Blue Ridge Farm
- Plum Run Farm
- Oak Grove Meadows
- Skyland Farm
- Gone Away Farm
- Gap Run Farm
- West View Farm
- Orange Hill Farm



JOHN MARSHALL SWCD  
recognizes

**GOOSE CREEK ASSOCIATION**

AS AN OUTSTANDING PARTNER IN NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 CONSERVATION PARTNER AWARD



# John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon



# JMSWCD recognizes A & J Fencing for our 2018 Conservation Contractor Award





# Important Benefits of Stream Protection Fencing

- Excludes livestock from access to streams and ponds.
- Protects the fragile stream bank from erosion and decreases sediment load entering the waterways.
- Protects the riparian buffer allowing regeneration of vegetation which filters sediment and manure, absorbing nutrients and bacteria.
- Divides the grazing unit into smaller pastures to encourage rotational grazing, allowing healthy growth of forage in the pastures.





Water quality improvement begins with the fence...

- Most cost effective and impactful Best Management Practice to protect water quality in streams and rivers from degradation due to livestock.
- Important practice in protection of Fauquier's surface waters.



- Alvin and Amos Lantz began their fencing business 11 years ago and work with local farmers to assist them in implementing Best Management Practices to help improve water quality.
- Their fence installations are of superior quality and local landowners appreciate their professionalism and strong work ethic.
- A&J Fencing has completed 14 conservation practices on 9 farms in Fauquier County since 2012 and installed over 69,000 feet of fence protecting over 13 miles of stream bank.





## A & J Fencing

- Established and dependable partner in installing BMPs and helping JMSWCD's efforts to protect natural resources and promote healthy streams.
- Quality materials, Superior workmanship, Fair price
- Provide a quality fence installed with longevity in mind to last well beyond the 10 year contracted lifespan of the project.



# Successful livestock exclusion fencing involves complex components

- Install a variety of fences including barbwire, smooth high tensile wire, fixed knot woven wire, and board fence.
- Establish fences at constructed stream crossings using break-away fences, board fences, and water gates.
- Arrange board fencing near watering troughs.
- Install gates to allow livestock rotation between grazing paddocks.



# Positive response from our participants

"After interviewing several contractors we decided to use A&J Fencing. They were a pleasure to work with and made our project turn out beautiful. My husband says they are everything a contractor should be, honest, dependable and proficient in what they do."

*Carla and Claude Chapman, Bealeton VA*

"A&J Fencing is the best! We won't be going anywhere else for fencing! From the moment I called Alvin, he was kind, professional and prompt with replies. His quotes were not only reasonable but accurate, which is very helpful when you're planning and need to budget accordingly. Alvin and his crew are always so nice and accommodating, it is truly a pleasure to work with them."

*Amy Mishey, Hume VA*

"A&J Fencing treats you like family. They are conscientious and helped with questions about the turns, gate locations, and crossings. A&J Fencing is respectable and first class, providing fast and quality work."

*Frank Ott, Remington VA*



# Congratulations to A & J Fencing Conservation Contractor 2018





JOHN MARSHALL SWCD  
recognizes

**A&J FENCING**

FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COOPERATION IN THE  
INSTALLATION OF AGRICULTURAL BEST  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 CONSERVATION CONTRACTOR AWARD





# John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon



# Husson Lewis Enterprises

## 2018 CONSERVATION FARM AWARD





128 Acre farm is ...  
rotationally grazed by a cow-calf operation and







Home to Spencer Sport Horses



# RA-01 Buck Run Watershed

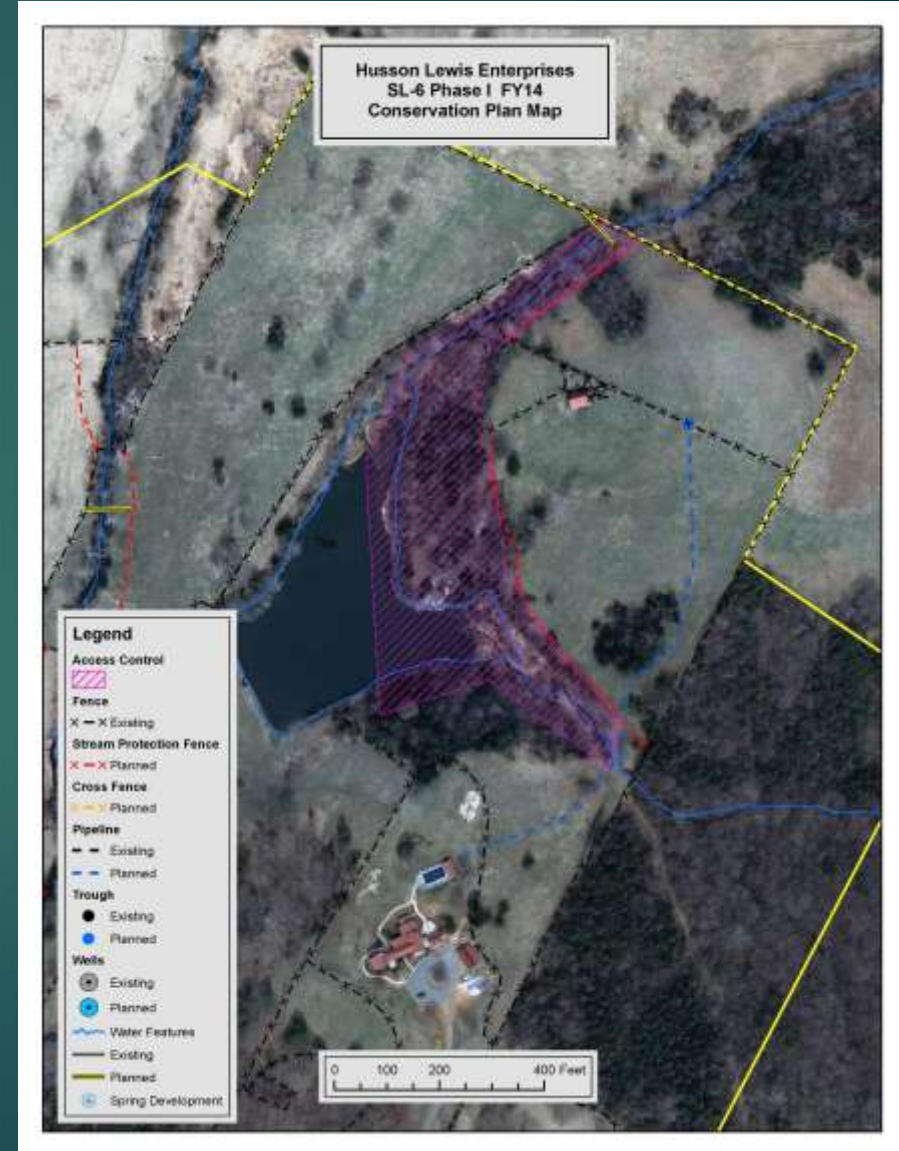




# SL-6 Stream Exclusion – Phase I



Protected inlet and pond, including 3,100 feet of stream bank and the creation 8.7 acres of Riparian Buffer

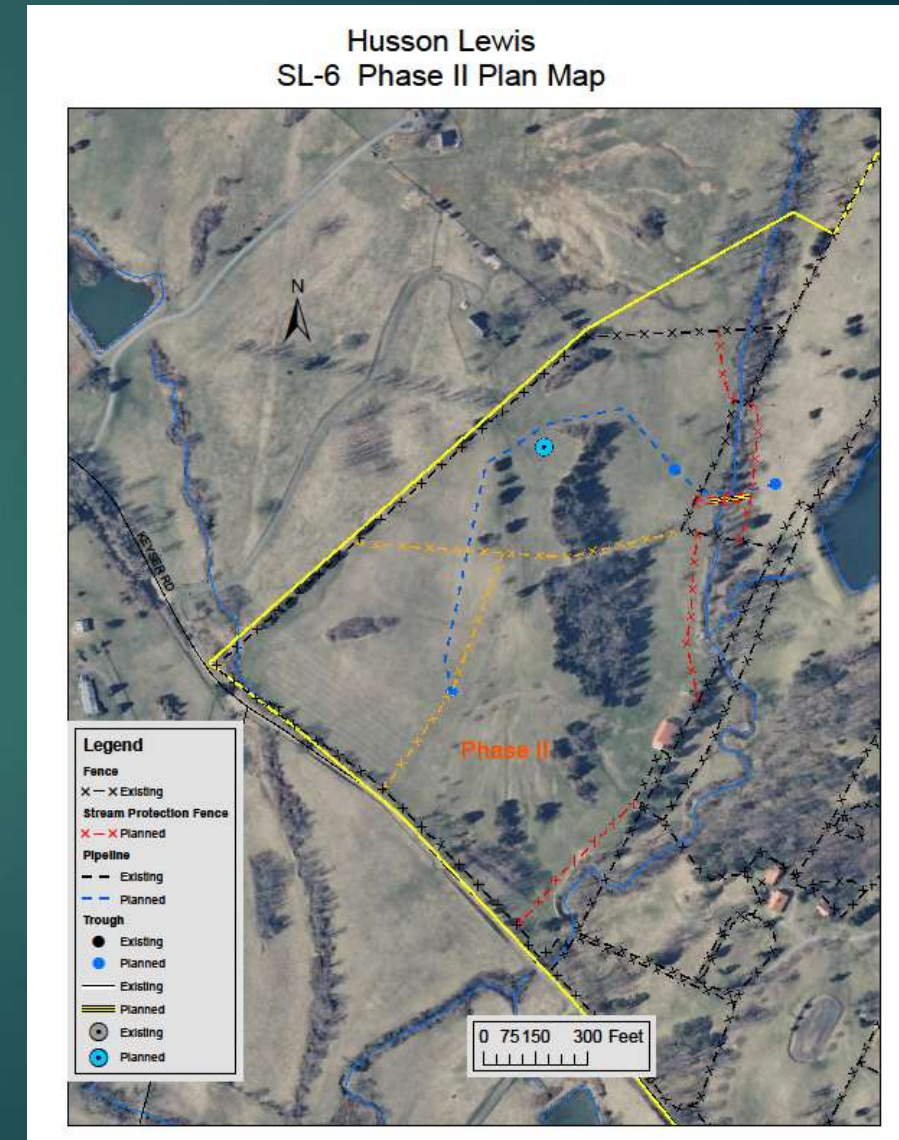




# SL-6 Stream Exclusion – Phase II



Main phase protected both sides of Buck Run, including 8,700 feet of stream bank and the establishment of 11.9 acres of riparian buffer





# SL-6 Stream Exclusion Phase III

Is currently under construction

Will protect all remaining water resources on the farm

This final phase includes the pond outlet and a spring for an additional 820 feet of stream bank protection and the creation of 0.3 acres of riparian buffer

**In total, a well, 6,500 feet of stream protection fence, 3,650 feet of pipeline, 7 watering troughs, and 2 stream crossings have been installed.**





# Buffer Restoration Projects

During December 2017 and April 2018, native trees and shrubs were planted on both sides of Buck Run, in cooperation with Friends of the Rappahannock, Piedmont Environmental Council, Highland School and other community partners.



JOHN MARSHALL SWCD  
recognizes

**HUSSON LEWIS ENTERPRISES**

FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION  
AND LAND STEWARDSHIP.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 CONSERVATION FARM AWARD





# John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon

# 2018 Local Clean Water Farm Award

## Blue Ridge Farm

Upperville, VA



Leslie Grayson, Mike Barreda, and Chickens Hosting  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Farm Field Days



27 acre Conservation Reserve Planting on Blue Ridge  
Farm, Upper Goose Creek Watershed



# Blue Ridge Farm

- Blue Ridge Farm is a family run farm located in Upperville, Virginia within the Upper Goose Creek Watershed (PL-07).
- The farm encompasses over 516 acres of mixed cool season pasture and hardwood forest.
- Blue Ridge was founded in 1927 by Cary T. Grayson as a high quality race horse production and training facility.
- Leslie Grayson (granddaughter of Cary T. Grayson) and Mike Barreda manage and operate many aspects of the farm today mixing family tradition with a philosophy of natural resource conservation.

# Blue Ridge Farm

- Although horses have been a large part of the farm's history from the late 1800s, the farm today is more diverse, with cattle being grazed on approximately 200 acres, horses being kept on an additional 100 acres, and chickens rotated throughout with the use of a mobile chicken coop.
- Over 200 acres of the farm have been dedicated specifically to conservation, through exclusion fencing and enhanced with native plant restoration.
- The farm has also been placed under conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation



# Generational Changes for the Farm

Farming has changed significantly under the current family management. There has been a concerted effort to protect the long-term sustainability of the farm through the conservation of natural resources.



Above Photo: mid 1900s. Right Photo: same area today



# Taking the Long View

In 1995, Blue Ridge began a long effort to protect the surface water on their farm. Over the course of last 23 years they have implemented extensive Stream Exclusion and Grazing Land Management practices (SL-6s), resulting in the protection of over 32,250 linear feet of streambank in the Goose Creek Watershed (over 6 miles!).

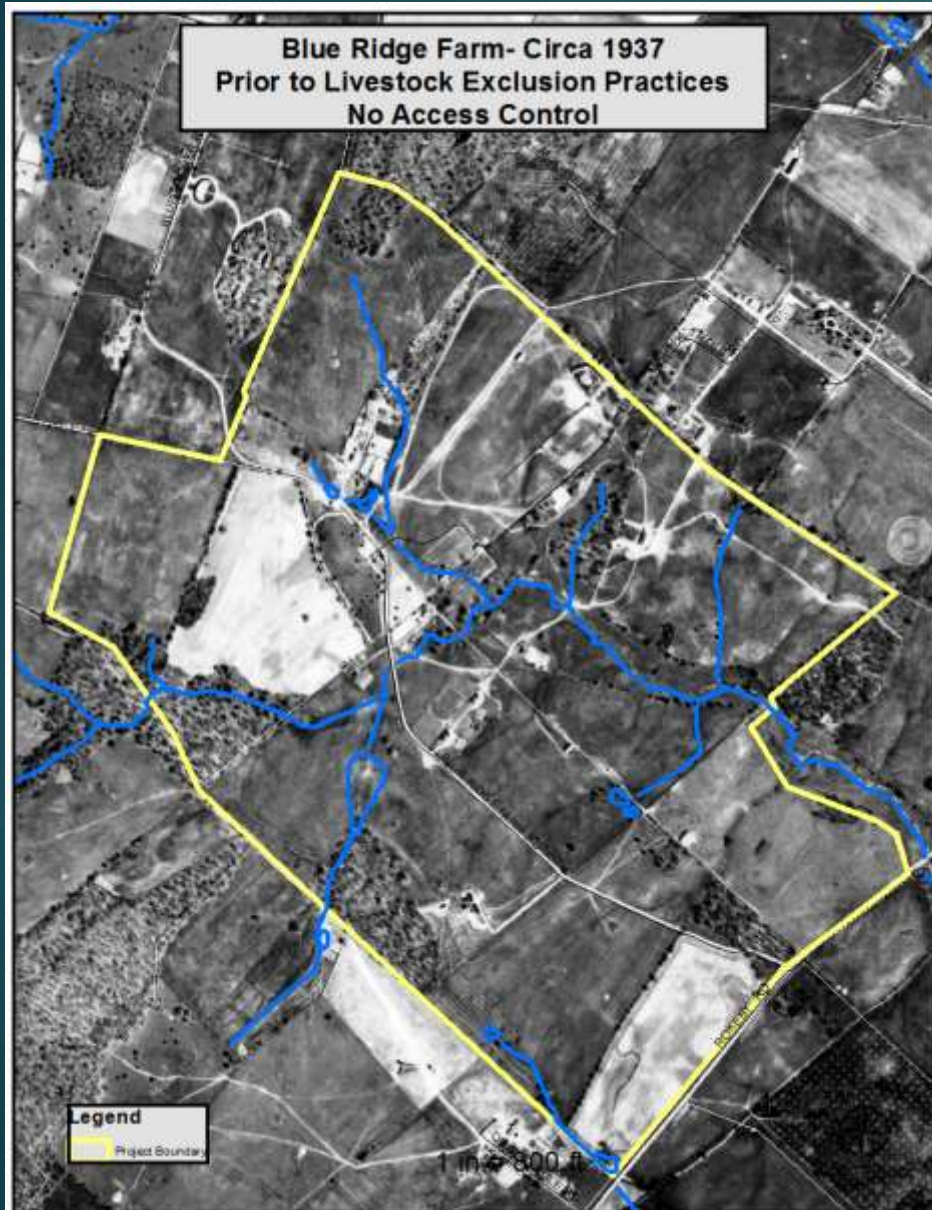




# Blue Ridge Farm Conservation Practices

- 1995 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 1998 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 1998 – Stream Protection Practice (WP-2)
- 2000 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 2000 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 2002 – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- 2004 – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- 2013 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 2014 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 2015 – Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management Practice (SL-6)
- 2018 – Continuing Conservation Initiative – Stream Exclusion (CCI-SE1)

# Conservation Through Time





# Generational Changes for the Livestock



Clean water for livestock is a critical aspect of productive farming. This has been a significant focus of the farm's 23 year effort to exclude livestock from their streams.





# Partners in Conservation



Blue Ridge Farm has partnered with NRCS, Goose Creek Association, JMSWCD, DOF, as well as students from local schools to restore native vegetation on over 30 acres of land along streams and ponds on their property.



# Community Engagement and Education



Blue Ridge has also contributed to the engagement and education of the community. They have hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Farm Field Days from 2002-2013 as well as the Fall Farm Tours from 1999-2003, giving students and the general public memorable experiences that demonstrate the importance of agriculture and the conservation of natural resources.



JOHN MARSHALL SWCD  
recognizes

**BLUE RIDGE FARM**

FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION AND LAND  
STEWARDSHIP.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 CLEAN WATER FARM AWARD – POTOMAC BASIN





# John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon